

CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for granting access to a protected area of a storage device from a calling process, comprising the steps of:

~~causing a calling process desiring to gain access to the protected area to locate~~
~~locating~~ an interface ~~that permits access to the protected area;~~

~~causing the calling process to use~~ using the interface to create a created trusted relationship between ~~the a~~ calling process and ~~a~~ system firmware;

~~once the trusted relationship has been established, allowing the calling process to retrieve~~ retrieving a directory of service areas in the protected area for the calling process with the created trusted relationship;

~~allowing access to~~ accessing one or more service areas in the protected area;
processing data contained in the one or more service areas; and
closing the protected area when processing of data in the one or more service areas is complete.

2. (Currently amended) The method recited in Claim 1 wherein the using the interface to create a created trusted relationship comprises ~~[[the]]~~ steps of:

sending a public key to the system firmware;
modifying the public key using a private key using the system firmware;
~~causing the calling process to validate~~ validating the modified key;
~~causing~~ using the system firmware to issue a public key to the calling process;
modifying the public key using the private key using the calling process; and
~~causing~~ using the system firmware to validate the new key ~~;~~ and
~~if the key is not validated, denying access to the protected area; and~~
~~if the key is validated, granting access to the protected area.~~

3. (Currently amended) The method recited in Claim 1 ~~wherein the step of allowing access to the one or more service areas comprises the~~ further comprising steps of:

returning a handle from the system firmware to the calling process ~~once the system firmware has learned to trust the calling process;~~

modifying the handle using the calling process;

returning the ~~modified~~ handle to the system firmware as part of the a retrieve directory request; and

~~allowing the calling process to locate the~~ locating a desired service area using the an information returned by the retrieve directory request.

4. (Currently amended) The method recited in Claim 1 ~~wherein the step of allowing access to the one or more service areas comprises the~~ further comprising steps of:

returning a handle from the system firmware to the calling process ~~once the system firmware has learned to trust the calling process;~~

modifying the handle using the calling process;

returning the modified handle to the system firmware as a part of a retrieve directory request; and

~~if the open request succeeds, causing the system firmware to move~~ moving a SETMAX boundary to ~~allow access to the~~ a requested service area selected from the one or more service areas.

5. (Currently amended) The method recited in Claim 1 wherein the step of ~~allowing access to~~ accessing the one or more service areas comprises ~~the~~ steps of:

returning a handle from the system firmware to the calling process ~~once the system firmware has learned to trust the calling process;~~

modifying the handle using the calling process;

returning the modified handle to the system firmware as a part of an open service area with a password request; and

~~if the open request succeeds, causing the system firmware to move~~ moving a SETMAX boundary to ~~allow access to the~~ a requested service area selected from the one or more service areas.

6. (Currently amended) The method recited in Claim 1 wherein the step of using the interface to create a created trusted relationship further comprises moving a SETMAX address from an initial boundary,

and further wherein the step of closing the protected area further comprises the step of: once the calling process has completed its activities in the protected area, returning the SETMAX address to its ~~original~~ the initial boundary using a ~~close~~ SETMAX command.

7-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A method for granting access to a protected area of a storage device from a calling process, comprising the steps of:

~~causing a calling process desiring to gain access to the protected area to locate~~
locating an interface that permits access to the protected area;

~~causing the calling process to use using~~ the interface to create a created trusted ~~relationship~~ between the calling process and a system firmware;

~~once the trusted relationship has been established,~~ manipulating one or more PARTIES (Protected Area Run-Time Interface Extensions Services) service areas ~~found in~~ comprised within the protected area; and

closing the protected area when the ~~processing in~~ manipulating the one or more PARTIES service areas is ~~complete~~ completed.

14. (Currently amended) The method recited in Claim 13 wherein the using the interface to create a created trusted relationship comprises the steps of:

sending a public key to the system firmware;

modifying the public key using a private key using the system firmware;

~~causing the calling process to validate~~ validating the modified key;

~~causing~~ using the system firmware to issue a public key to the calling process;

modifying the public key using the private key using the calling process; and

~~causing using the system firmware to validate the new key ; and if the key is not validated, not granting access to the protected area; and if the key is validated, granting access to the protected area.~~

15. (Currently amended) The method recited in Claim 13 ~~wherein the step of allowing access to the one or more service areas comprises the~~ further comprising steps of:

~~returning a handle from the system firmware to the calling process once the system firmware has learned to trust the calling process;~~

~~modifying the handle using the calling process;~~

~~returning the modified handle to the system firmware as a part of the a retrieve directory request; and~~

~~allowing the calling process to locate the~~ locating a desired service area using the an information returned by the retrieve directory request.

16. (Currently amended) The method recited in Claim 13 ~~wherein the step of allowing access to the one or more service areas comprises the~~ further comprising steps of:

~~returning a handle from the system firmware to the calling process once the system firmware has learned to trust the calling process;~~

~~modifying the handle using the calling process;~~

~~returning the modified handle to the system firmware as a part of a retrieve directory request; and~~

~~if the open request succeeds, causing the system firmware to move moving a SETMAX boundary to allow access to the a requested service area selected from the one or more service areas.~~

17. (Currently amended) The method recited in Claim 13 wherein the step of ~~allowing access to~~ accessing the one or more service areas comprises the steps of:

~~returning a handle from the system firmware to the calling process once the system firmware has learned to trust the calling process;~~

~~modifying the handle using the calling process;~~

returning the modified handle to the system firmware as a part of an open service area with a password request; and

~~if the open request succeeds, causing the system firmware to move~~ moving a SETMAX boundary to ~~allow access to the~~ a requested service area selected from the one or more service areas.

18. (Previously Presented) The method recited in Claim 13 wherein the step of using the interface to create a created trusted relationship further comprises:

moving a SETMAX address from an initial boundary.

and further wherein the step of closing the protected area further comprises ~~the step~~ of: ~~once the calling process has completed its activities in the protected area,~~ returning the SETMAX address to ~~its original~~ the initial boundary using a close SETMAX command.